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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Item 38 of the preliminary list*
SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS
TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR
RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 23 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement by the Presidency of the European Union on Albania, issued on 16 May 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 38 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of
the Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 16 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Albania

The Presidency of the European Union is deeply concerned by the continued lack of consensus among the Albanian political parties regarding a new electoral law needed to proceed with early elections at the end of June, as agreed upon by all parties.

Albanian political differences must be resolved by Albanians and within the time-frame they themselves have set.

The Presidency of the European Union strongly supports the efforts of Dr. Vranitzky, Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with whom it is in continuous contact.

The Presidency urges all political parties in Albania to reach agreement on the electoral law, on free access to the media and on participation in the elections.

Should the current political stalemate not be overcome within the coming days and should elections not take place on 29 June, the European Union, in close coordination with the international community as a whole, may be forced to reconsider its efforts in support of Albania.

It is up to the Albanian parties to create the right conditions for the future of their country.